

Coast Clues

Identify physical and cultural characteristics that connect places in a region.

SS.3.G.2 "Places and Regions"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each physical characteristic, circle each cultural characteristic, and write R beside details that help explain why Gulf Coast places belong to one region.

Florida's Gulf Coast

- ① On Florida's Gulf Coast, the land is mostly flat and meets the warm Gulf of Mexico. Sandy beaches and saltwater bays lie beside many towns. Mangrove trees grow along some shores, where their roots help hold soil in place. The climate is hot and humid for much of the year. These are physical characteristics of the coast.
- ② People have shaped Gulf Coast towns in other ways. Many residents work in fishing, boating, hotels, or shops that serve visitors. Docks, marinas, seafood restaurants, and beach paths are built features. At community seafood festivals, families eat local fish and listen to music. These jobs, buildings, and traditions are cultural characteristics because people create or share them.
- ③ Places along this coast are not exactly alike. One town may have a busy harbor, while another has a quiet island beach. Still, they share nearby Gulf water, flat land, warm weather, and activities connected to the coast. Because several places share physical and cultural characteristics, geographers group them as the Gulf Coast region. A region is an area with features that places have in common.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two physical characteristics of Florida's Gulf Coast.

2 Name two cultural characteristics of Gulf Coast towns from the passage.

3 A town has a marina and holds a seafood festival. Are these physical or cultural characteristics? Explain why.

4 Why are Gulf Coast places grouped as one region? Give one shared physical characteristic and one shared cultural characteristic.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a place you know. Write three sentences: name the place, describe one physical characteristic and one cultural characteristic, and tell what nearby places could share to form a region.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each physical characteristic, circle each cultural characteristic, and write R beside details that help explain why Gulf Coast places belong to one region. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two physical characteristics of Florida's Gulf Coast.	Any two: flat land, warm Gulf water, sandy beaches, saltwater bays, mangrove trees, or a hot and humid climate.
2	Name two cultural characteristics of Gulf Coast towns from the passage.	Any two: fishing or boating jobs, hotels or visitor shops, docks, marinas, seafood restaurants, beach paths, or seafood festivals.
3	A town has a marina and holds a seafood festival. Are these physical or cultural characteristics? Explain why.	They are cultural characteristics because people build marinas and create or share festivals.
4	Why are Gulf Coast places grouped as one region? Give one shared physical characteristic and one shared cultural characteristic.	They are grouped because they share features. Answers should name a physical feature, such as Gulf water or flat land, and a cultural feature, such as activities connected to the coast.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Central Park has lawns, trees, and a lake. People visit its playgrounds and attend events there. Other parks in New York City share green spaces and recreation, so they can form a park region.

Accept accurate physical characteristics that occur naturally and cultural characteristics made, practiced, or shared by people. For the open response, accept reasonable regions when the student explains a shared feature among nearby places.